

SECRET/SENSITIVE

OLC 72-0208

22 February 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversation with Secretary Laird

1. The Director told me today that in a phone conversation this afternoon he had reported to Secretary Laird his meetings last week with Senators John Stennis and Margaret Chase Smith at which time he had told them of General Walters' impending nomination to be DDCI and summarized for them General Walters' qualifications. The Director explained to Laird that he wanted Laird's advice on what if anything should be said to Senator Stuart Symington, noting that Stennis had said he thought there was no need to brief Symington. Laird agreed, commenting that the Director was "in good shape" and that the next thing to do was to move ahead with the nomination. He said Walters was available as of 1 March 1972 and suggested the nomination might as well be presented to the Hill immediately.

2. The Director demurred, commenting that there might be certain problems regarding the precise responsibilities of the new DDCI, and said he would rather discuss it with Dr. Kissinger upon his return from China.

3. The Director asked Laird if he knew Admiral Moorer had mentioned the nomination to Stennis. Laird first said he had known of it, but then explained that he had heard Dr. Kissinger ask Moorer to take the nomination up with Stennis but he didn't know if Moorer had done so. Laird said he opposed the nomination being discussed by Moorer, but Kissinger argued since Walters was a military man it was appropriate for Moorer to raise the matter with Stennis.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - O&M DDCI

1 - Sen. Stennis

1 - Sen. Smith

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